

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 13317 151834Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----042233 151835Z /43

O R 151822Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0670
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13317

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV SF GW WA
SUBJECT: GENSCHER-BOTHA TALKS: NAMIBIA

SUMMARY: FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND SOUTH
AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA MET AUGUST 13 IN
FRANKFURT AND DISCUSSED PEACE EFFORTS IN RHODESIA
(SEPTEL) AND NAMIBIA. BOTHA CRITICIZED
CURRENT WESTERN DEMANDS AND TACTICS. GENSCHER WARNED
BOTHA AGAINST CREATING FAITS ACCOMPLIS IN NAMIBIA.
END SUMMARY.

1. MUELLER, CHIEF OF THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE SOUTHERN
AFRICAN AFFAIRS OFFICE, INVITED US AND UK EMBASSY
OFFICERS TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE FOR A BRIEFING ON THE
GENSCHER-BOTHA TALKS. MUELLER SAID THE TALKS WERE
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"TOUGH, BUT NOT UNFRIENDLY."

2. BOTHA STATED THAT NAMIBIA WAS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT
CASE FOR SOUTH AFRICA FROM RHODESIA SINCE SOUTH AFRICA
HAS A REAL RESPONSIBILITY IN NAMIBIA. BOTHA STATED
THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD ACCEPTED SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 385 AS THE BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN

NAMIBIA DURING THE CAPE TOWN TALKS. MOST OF ALL, SOUTH AFRICA, AT THE INSISTENCE OF THE WEST, HAD ABANDONED THE TURNHALLE CONCEPT. THIS HAD LED TO REPERCUSSIONS IN NAMIBIA SINCE "PEOPLE FEEL LET DOWN."

3. BOTHA NOTED THAT 385 DEMANDS EARLY INDEPENDENCE, BUT THE WEST HAS ASKED FOR A SLOWDOWN. SOUTH AFRICA WANTED TO APPOINT AN ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL ON THE 8TH, 15TH AND NOW THE 22ND OF AUGUST, BUT THIS HAS BEEN OPPOSED BY THE WEST. BOTHA STATED, "WE WANT TO GET OUT QUICKLY WITH HONOR AND NOT LEAVE A SECOND ANGOLA." SOUTH AFRICA HAS ACCEPTED THE "ONE MAN, ONE VOTE" PRINCIPLE, AND HAS ACCEPTED BLACK MAJORITY GOVERNMENT IN PRINCIPLE, BUT THIS MUST BE A MODERATE AND COOPERATIVE GOVERNMENT. (BOTHA DID NOT RPT NOT CRITICIZE SWAPO IN THIS CONNECTION.) A WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM NORTHERN NAMIBIA AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, WOULD BE ANSWERED WITH A FIRM "NO."

4. GENSCHER WARNED BOTHA AGAINST THE CREATION OF FAITS ACCOMPLIS PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD NOT PROVIDED THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLAN PROMISED IN THE CAPE TOWN TALKS AND THIS MEANT THAT SWAPO'S PLANS WERE NOW THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION. HESITATION HAS HURT SOUTH AFRICA'S BARGAINING POSITION. IN ADDITION, CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNMENT-PROVIDED SUPPORT TO THE TURNHALLE GROUP WAS CREATING UNHEALTHY SUSPICIONS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN INTENTIONS.

5. MUELLER HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE TALKS IN NEW YORK, WHERE HE WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH THE SWAPO DELEGATION. HE NOTED THAT MANY PROBLEMS REMAINED, BUT THE TALKS PROVIDED A POSSIBLE BASIS FOR CONTINUATION AND WERE IMPORTANT SINCE THEY WERE A "BREAKTHROUGH IN SWAPO'S THEOLOGY." SWAPO SEEMED TO SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY IN A NUMBER OF AREAS. MUELLER DID NOT RULE OUT A POSSIBLE UN MILITARY PRESENCE, BUT CHARACTERIZED CURRENT FRG THINKING ON THIS AS "VERY VAGUE" IN SPITE OF PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT GENSCHER FAVORED A UN CONTINGENT MADE UP OF INDIAN AND SWEDISH TROOPS. STOESEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
DecapTION Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
DecapTION Note:
Disposition Action: Released in Full
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: 200202525
Disposition Comment: RECORDING OF CLASSIFICATION/RECLASSIFICATION ACTION IN SAS (STATE ARCHIVING SYSTEM) BY THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITY FOR THIS ACTION, WHO HAS APPROVED RECLASSIFICATION AND OR EXTENSION ACTION ON THIS DOCUMENT.
Disposition Date: 04-Dec-2007 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: Released in Full by JOHN BLODGETT on 04-DEC-07 ;
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN13317
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770294-0064
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770863/aaaacasz.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2e22f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1605828
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENSCHER-BOTHA TALKS: NAMIBIA SUMMARY: FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA MET AUGUST 13 IN
TAGS: PGOV, SF, GE, WA, (GENSCHER, HANS-DIETRICH), (BOTHA, PICK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2e22f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

